



Germany: Facts & Figures June 2007

A monthly overview of current opinion data and statistical information in the Federal Republic of Germany

Politics

If Bundestag elections would be held July 1, 2007, the CDU/CSU would receive 36% of the vote, the SPD 27%, the Green Party 10%, the FDP 10%, the Left Party 14%, and all other parties combined 3%. (Emnid. 06/26/07)

All parties suffered membership losses last year. The SPD now has 561,000 members (- 5%), the CDU 554,000 (-3.1%), the CSU 167,000 (-1.9%), the Green Party 45,000 (-0.9%) and the FDP 65,000 members (-0.2%). (Die Welt, 06/26/07)

The PDS and the WASG merged to form a new political party, Die Linke (The Left). The founding party congress in Berlin elected ex-SPD leader Oskar Lafontaine and previous PDS leader Lothar Bisky as the new leadership duo. Lafontaine, who will act as chairman of the Left's Bundestag group together with Gregor Gysi, received 87.9% of the votes, while Bisky received 83.6%. (Major papers, 06/18/07)

54% of Germans would vote for Chancellor Merkel if there were direct elections in Germany. 19% would cast their vote for SPD chairman Kurt Beck. (Forsa. Stern, 06/06/07)

Economy

In June, the unemployment rate declined to 8.8%, down from 9.1% in May. The number of unemployed dropped to 3.7 million. This is the lowest unemployment rate in more than five years. (Federal Employment Agency. 06/28/07)

Investor and business confidence slipped in June, halting six straight months of increases. The ZEW index fell unexpectedly to 20.3 points in June compared to 24 points in May and 16.5 points in April. (Major papers, 06/20/07)

Russia remains the strongest growing market for German products. In the first three months of this year, exports reached six billion euros, one third higher than in the same period of last year. Exports to India rose 18%, to Switzerland 12.4% and to China 11.8%, while exports to the U.S. dropped 4.9%. (Federal Statistical Office. Die Welt, 06/16/07)

The Institute for World Economy (IFW) raised its expectations for German GDP growth this year to 3.2%. (IFW. Major papers, 06/14/07)

The reconstruction of the eastern German Länder is gaining new momentum. Economic growth in eastern Germany reached 2.8% compared to 2.7% in western Germany. (Die Welt. 06/11/07)

Society

67% of adults in France, 55% of Germans, 47% of British adults and 40% of Spanish adults feel there should not be any more new members in the EU. While 49% of U.S. adults are not sure, 46% say the EU should continue to take on new members. When asked if Turkey should be invited to join the EU, majorities of French (71%), German (66%) and Italian (55%) adults all say no, as do 46% of both British and Spanish adults. (Harris Poll. 06/20/07)

A poll of young people between the age of 15 and 30 in 27 EU countries revealed that in Germany in particular, 4.3% would engage themselves in political parties, while 14.6% are active in NGOs, and 19.5% said they would also take part in protest rallies. On the European scale, 4.6% work in political parties, while 11% are active in NGOs and 20% take part in protest rallies. (EU Poll. Die Welt, 06/13/07)

54% of Germans think that German forces should withdraw as quickly as possible from Afghanistan. (Deutschlandtrend. ARD, 06/08/07)

75% of Germans do not believe that the G-8 summit will "make a positive contribution to greater justice in the world." 86% said France is considered the most trustworthy country among the G-8, followed by Canada (85%), and Britain (69%). At the end of the scale is the United States with 32% and Russia with 24%. (Deutschlandtrend. Die Welt, 06/08/07)

45% of respondents believe the G-8 summit is necessary, 47% consider the summit useless. 8% did not hold an opinion. 46% think the security measures in Heiligendamm are justified, 46% believe they are not justified. 94% of respondents believe climate protection is the most important issue followed by the elimination of poverty (85%) and the protection of property rights (67%). (Emnid. N24. 06/07/07)

Provisional results for 2006 show a slightly decreasing population in Germany. On December 31, 2006, Germany had about 82,315,000 inhabitants. That was 123,000 or 0.1% less than at the end of 2005 (82,438,000). (Federal Statistical Office. 06/05/07)